BEFORE THE

Federal Communications Commission

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Advanced Television Systems And Their	)	MM Docket No. 87-268
Impact Upon The Existing Television Service	)	

To: The Commission

SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION PURSUANT TO OET BULLETIN 69

Mountain Broadcasting Corporation ("Mountain"), by its attorneys, herein supplements its June 13, 1997 Petition For Reconsideration ("Petition") of certain digital television ("DTV") channel assignments in the above-captioned proceeding, to revise its interference analysis data pursuant to the procedures outlined in OET Bulletin No. 69.[1]

Mountain is the licensee of WMBC-TV ("WMBC"), Newton, New Jersey. Mountain's Petition demonstrated that the assignment of DTV channel 8 to WMBC threatened the station with a crippling loss of service area population on a permanent basis. The DTV Table of Allotments calculates WMBC's existing NTSC service area population at 8.39 million and DTV population during the transition at only 6.01 million, a population

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[1]On July 2, 1997, the Commission released OET Bulletin 69, providing guidance on the implementation and use of the Longley-Rice methodology for evaluating TV service coverage and interference. Accordingly, the Commission authorized parties that had petitioned for reconsideration or modification of DTV assignments to submit supplemental filings by this date. Order, DA 97-1377, released July 2, 1997.

coverage which is 28 percent less.[2] This disparity in service reflects the fact that WMBC's DTV assignment on channel 8 will receive interference from NTSC stations on channels 7, 8 and 9. If broadcasters are allowed to retain their existing core spectrum NTSC channels for DTV use at the end of the transition period, as the Sixth DTV Order proposes, then these interfering stations are likely to keep their desirable assignments on lower channels and continue to cause interference to WMBC's DTV operations forever.[3]

Mountain's Petition requested that the Commission consider the suitability of unassigned channel 34 for WMBC's DTV use, particularly in light of its concerns with service area replication. The Petition included the tentative conclusions of Mountain's consulting engineer, Louis Robert du Treil, Jr., P.E., of the firm du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc. Mr. du Treil has now supplemented his original Engineering Statement using software developed for DTV analyses pursuant to OET Bulletin 69 as well as the Sixth DTV Order. A new Engineering Statement is attached hereto.

Mr. du Treil concludes that channel 34 -- unlike channel 8 -- will provide a level of service comparable to WMBC's present NTSC operations on channel 63, consistent with the overarching goal of the Sixth DTV Order. He estimates that WMBC's service area on channel 34 would include 14,220 square kilometers in which some 10,578,107 persons reside. Furthermore, Mr. du Treil concludes that the assignment of channel 34 would be superior to channel 8 in terms of interference given, by reducing net interference (i.e.,

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[2]Sixth Report and Order in MM Docket No. 87-268, FCC 97-115, released April 21, 1997 ("Sixth DTV Order"), Appendix B, Table 1 at B-30.

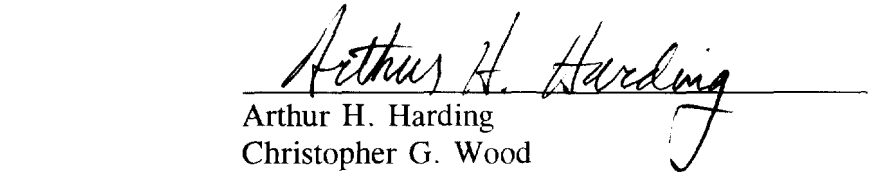
[3]See Mountain's Petition at 5.

considering NTSC and DTV interference). Moreover, channel 34 may be assigned to WMBC without disruption to the Table of DTV allotments as proposed by the Commission. Accordingly, Mountain asks that the Commission assign DTV channel 34 to WMBC so as to better effectuate the Commission's DTV policies.

Mr. du Treil has also revised his figures regarding the interference that would be received by WMBC's NTSC operations on channel 63 and DTV operations on channel 8 during the transition to DTV, in light of OET Bulletin 69. In particular, the predicted interference to WMBC's NTSC operations now calculated by Mr. du Treil more closely agrees with the figures set out in the Sixth DTV Order -- a significant level of interference, which needs to be addressed in order to preserve the station's existing service to viewers.

Respectfully submitted,

MOUNTAIN BROADCASTING CORPORATION



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Dated: August 22, 1997

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56232

ENGINEERING STATEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION
PREPARED FOR
MOUNTAIN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
NEWTON, NEW JERSEY
CHANNEL 63

This Engineering Statement was prepared on behalf of Mountain Broadcasting Corporation, licensee of WMBC-TV, Newton, New Jersey (NTSC Channel 63), in support of a supplement to its pending Petition for Reconsideration concerning the FCC's digital television ("DTV") Sixth Report and Order ("Sixth Order"). This statement provides revised interference analyses data that were derived through the software implementation of the procedure outlined in the Commission's recently released OET Bulletin No. 69 ("OET69").

Existing WMBC-TV NTSC Coverage

Implementation of the OET69 procedure, specifically including the implementation of transmitting antenna vertical pattern assumptions, results in population and area figures for the predicted interference to WMBC-TV which more closely agree with the figures derived from Appendix B of the Sixth Order. For example, with respect to the interference with the noise-limited contour of WMBC-TV (NTSC Channel 63) from the DTV allotment for WNET(TV) ("DWNET"), we find a total

population of 1,432,484 in an area of 330 square kilometers.

WMBC-TV's Proposed DTV Allotment

WMBC-TV was allotted Channel 8, with an average ERP of 3.2 kW, for its transitional DTV operation. The interference to the DWMBC-TV facility on Channel 8 utilizing the OET69 software is summarized in the table below:

Interference to Proposed DWMBC-TV, Channel 8		
Station	**Interference Area (sq. km)**	**Population (1990)**
WABC-TV, New York, NY Ch. 7, 64.6 kW, 491 m	289	1,620,610
WTNH, New Haven, CT Ch. 8, 166 kW, 369 m	1,987	5,273,853
WGAL, Lancaster, PA Ch. 8, 112 kW, 415 m	190	29,591
WWOR-TV, Secaucus, NJ Ch. 9, 61.7 kW, 500 m	217	1,253,542
DWICZ-TV, Binghamton, NY Ch. 8, 3.2 kW, 375 m	452	10,807
Total NTSC interference (considering common interference areas)	**2,081**	**5,304,609**
Additional DTV interference (considering common interference areas)	**364**	**8,479**

The OET69 software confirms that the interference from WTNH, WABC-TV and WWOR-TV occurs largely in the New York metropolitan area.

Possible Alternative DTV Channel

Channel 34 was previously identified as a viable alternative to the DTV Channel 8 that was allotted to WMBC-TV ("DWMBC-TV") that requires no other change in the allotment table issued with the Sixth Order.* This channel was re-studied using the software developed for DTV analyses under the Sixth Order and OET69. Both population and area figures are now supplied in the following revised tabulations:

Interference to Channel 34 DWMBC-TV Proposal		
Station	**Interference Area (sq. km)**	**Population (1990)**
WMGC-TV, Binghamton, NY Ch. 34, 1480 kW, 281 m	187	43,037
DWPIX, New York, NJ Ch. 33, 111.8 kW, 506 m	59	610,776
DWYBE, Philadelphia, PA Ch. 34, 50 kW, 284 m	1,005	772,178
DWTWS, New London, CT Ch. 34, 111.7 kW, 381 m	38	152,143
DWMHT, Schenectady, NY Ch. 34, 149. 7 kW, 299 m	28	17,993
Total NTSC interference (considering common interference areas)	**187**	**43,037**
Additional DTV interference (considering common interference areas)	**1,082**	**1,173,998**

As indicated, the NTSC interference to the Channel 34 proposal would be limited to 187 square km within which 43,037 persons reside. The additional DTV interference to the Channel 34 proposal amounts to 1,082 square km within which 1,173,998 persons reside. Given a noise-limited and

terrain-limited service area of 14,220 square kilometers within which 10,578,107 persons reside. There would be a net service area of 12,510 square kilometers within which 9,415,224 persons reside accounting for all predicted interference. Thus, the Channel 34 proposal will provide a level of service comparable to the present WMBC-TV on Channel 63.

With respect to interference-given, further study using the OET69 software confirms the initial finding that the Channel 34 allotment would be superior to Channel 8 as well. Calculations indicate that the Channel 8 proposal would result in levels of interference to the following:

Interference–Given from Channel 8 DWMBC-TV Allotment		
Station	**Interference Area (sq. km)**	**Population (1990)**
WABC, Channel 7	581	63,776
WTNH, Channel 8	2,768	1,321,918
WWOR-TV, Channel 9	403	45,965
DWICZ-TV, Channel 8	349	7,274
WGAL, Channel 8	460	51,794
Total NTSC interference (not considering common interference areas)	**4,212**	**1,483,453**
Total DTV interference (not considering common interference areas)	**349**	**7,274**
Total interference (not considering common interference areas)	**4,561**	**1,490,727**

* An average ERP of 50 kW non-directional is assumed for the Channel 34 allotment.

The OET69 software was employed to calculate the interference given from the proposed Channel 34 DTV allotment for comparison to the Channel 8 DTV allotment. The levels of interference-given, as computed by the OET69 software, for the Channel 34 proposed allotment are summarized in the table below:

Interference–Given from Channel 34 DWMBC-TV Allotment Proposal		
Station	**Interference Area (sq. km)**	**Population (1990)**
DWTWS, Channel 34	10	1,041
WXTV, Channel 41	2	1,101
WMGC-TV, Channel 34	122	1,070
DWPIX, Channel 33	378	34,403
WPXN-TV, Channel 31	13	3,314
DWMHT, Channel 34	19	284
DWYBE, Channel 34	703	131,364
Total NTSC interference (not considering common interference areas)	**147**	**6,526**
Total DTV interference (not considering common interference areas)	**1,100**	**166,051**
Total interference (not considering common interference areas)	**1,247**	**172,577**

From these numbers we find that, compared with Channel 8, the Channel 34 DWMBC-TV allotment would result in an lesser NTSC interference area of 4,065 square kilometers and 1,476,927 population; a greater DTV interference area of 751 square kilometers and 158,777 population; with a net interference reduction of 3,314 square kilometers and 1,318,150 population. Not only is the predicted interference total substantially reduced, but the impact on existing NTSC viewers is substantially improved by the Channel 34 allotment compared to the Channel 8 allotment.

It is thus concluded that a minimum 50 kW average ERP UHF DTV allotment for WMBC-TV on Channel 34 has superior service and interference characteristics than the FCC Channel 8 allotment. As previously demonstrated, this is without disruption of the Sixth Order allotment table.

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August 20, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Eve J. Lehman, a secretary at the law firm of Fleischman and Walsh, L.L.P. hereby certify that copies of the foregoing "Supplement To Petition for Reconsideration" were served this 22nd day of August 1997, via regular mail, upon the following:

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